

CLAIMS

1. Formula milk preparation apparatus comprising:

a support structure;

5 first and second containers supported by the support structure, the first container being adapted to hold a liquid, and the second container being adapted to hold powdered formula milk;

means for regulating the temperature of the contents of the first container;

10 means for dispensing an amount of content of the first and second containers; and

means for mixing together the contents dispensed from the first and second containers.

15 2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a third container supportable by the support structure, the dispensing means dispensing into the third container.

20 3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the third container is demountably held by the support structure.

4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the third container is a feeding bottle.

5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the support structure includes externally protruding spring-loaded jaws for holding the third container.

6. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the third
5 container includes a removable cap which can close the third container.

7. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cap is hingably attached to the third container.

10 8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7, further comprising a closure mechanism which can move the cap to close the third container.

9. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the third container receives content dispensed by the first and second containers, and discharges into a
15 fourth container.

10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the fourth container is a feeding bottle.

20 11. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mixing means is in the form of a reciprocating crank mechanism by which, in use, the third container is moved.

12. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising

means for cooling the contents dispensed from the first and second containers to a temperature suitable for consumption.

13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 12 when dependent on claim 11, wherein the
5 cooling means is included as part of the mixing means, the reciprocal movement of the third container cooling the contents of the third container.

14. Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the cooling means is distinct and independent of the mixing means.

10

15. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a controller which, based on a user input, controls the first-container heating and/or cooling means, the dispensing means, the mixing means, and\or the cooling means.

15

16. A method of preparing formula milk using preparation apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, comprising the steps of :

20

- a. inserting liquid into the first container;
- b. inserting powered formula milk into the second container;
- c. the regulating means bringing and maintaining the temperature of the liquid in the first container at a predetermined temperature;
- d. dispensing an amount of the liquid in the first container and the powdered milk in the second container into a or the third container; and
- e. the mixing means mixing the liquid and powdered milk together.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 when dependent on any one of claims 12 to 14, further comprising a step (f) of cooling the mixture of liquid and powdered milk using the cooling means, so that it is brought to a temperature suitable for
5 consumption.

18. A method as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17, wherein the performance of steps (d) and (e) or steps (d) to (f) is delayed from the completion of steps (a) to (c).

10 19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 18, wherein steps (d) and (e) or steps (d) to (f) are performed automatically following a single user input.

20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein the amount of liquid and powdered milk dispensed in step (d) is based on the single user input or
15 another user input.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the duration of steps (e) and/or (f) is/are based on the single user input or the other user input.

20 22. Formula milk prepared using apparatus and/or a method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

23. Formula milk preparation apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.